IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 18, 19 and 21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A needle assembly comprising:

a needle hub defining an interior cavity having a distal end and at least one non-sealing rigid fin being disposed therein that intersects an interior surface of the needle hub that defines the interior cavity wherein,

the at least one fin extends longitudinally a fixed distance from the distal end of the interior cavity to a proximal facing surface, the proximal facing surface engaging a distal most facing surface of an elongated ~~that engages a~~ barrel tip of the needle assembly when disposed within the interior cavity.

2. (Previously Presented) A needle assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the barrel tip is elongated and extends from a distal end of a barrel.

3. (Previously Presented) A needle assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the interior cavity has a substantially annular configuration.

4. (Previously Presented) A needle assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the barrel tip forms a substantial seal adjacent the at least one fin.

5. (Currently Amended) A needle assembly comprising:

a needle hub including a needle support and defining an interior cavity about at least a portion of the needle support, the interior cavity having at least one non-sealing rigid fin formed therein that intersects an interior surface of the needle hub that defines the interior cavity, the at least one fin extending longitudinally a fixed distance from a distal end of the interior cavity to a proximal facing surface; and

a barrel of the needle assembly having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end supporting the needle hub and including an elongated barrel tip extending therefrom, the barrel tip being received within the interior cavity of the needle hub and engaging the proximal facing surface of the at least one fin.

6. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the barrel tip forms a substantial seal with the needle support.

7. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the barrel tip forms a substantial seal with the needle support adjacent the at least one fin.

8. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the interior cavity of the needle hub has a plurality of fins formed therein.

9. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the interior cavity of the needle hub has four fins formed therein.

10. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the needle hub includes a hub skirt mounted to the distal end of the barrel.

11. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the interior cavity is defined between the hub skirt and the needle support.

12. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the needle support defines a needle cavity having at least a portion of a needle cannula disposed therein.

13. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the interior cavity and the needle cavity are coaxial.

14. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the interior cavity and the needle cavity are in substantially parallel alignment.

15. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the barrel is configured for receipt of a plunger.

16. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein the plunger is configured to engage a proximal opening of the needle support.

17. (Original) A needle assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein at least a portion of the needle cannula is disposed with the needle support adjacent a proximal end thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) A needle assembly comprising:

a barrel of the needle assembly including a barrel tip; and

a non-sealing rigid needle hub means for engaging the barrel tip in a configuration to minimize fluid waste.

19. (Currently Amended) A needle hub comprising:

a needle support, a hub skirt and an annular interior cavity having a distal end defined therebetween, the needle support defining a needle cavity in coaxial alignment with the interior cavity, the needle cavity having a needle cannula disposed therein and having at least a portion thereof disposed adjacent a proximal end of the needle support, the interior cavity having four non-sealing rigid fins formed at a distal portion thereof that intersect an interior surface of the needle hub that defines the interior cavity, each of the four fins extending longitudinally a fixed distance from the distal end of the interior cavity to a proximal facing surface.

20. (Previously Presented) A syringe comprising:

a needle support, a hub skirt and an annular interior cavity having a distal end defined therebetween, the needle support defining a needle cavity in coaxial alignment with the interior cavity, the needle cavity having a needle cannula disposed therein and having at least a portion thereof disposed adjacent a proximal end of the needle support, the interior cavity having four fins formed at a distal portion thereof that intersect an interior surface of the hub skirt that defines the interior cavity, each of the four fins extending longitudinally a fixed distance from the distal end of the interior cavity to a proximal facing surface;

a barrel having a proximal end and a distal end, the hub skirt being mounted to the distal end of the barrel and the distal end including an elongated barrel tip, the barrel tip being received within the interior cavity, the barrel tip engaging the proximal facing surfaces of the four fins and forming a substantial seal adjacent the four fins; and

a plunger being slidably received by the barrel and having a distal end configured to engage the proximal end of the needle support.

21. (Currently Amended) A needle hub including a needle support and defining an interior cavity about at least a portion of the needle support such that the needle support extends into the interior cavity, the needle support defining a needle cavity and the needle hub further including at least one non-sealing rigid fin that intersects an interior surface of the needle hub that defines the interior cavity, the at least one fin extending longitudinally a fixed distance from a distal end of the interior cavity to a proximal facing engagement surface disposed within the interior cavity.

22. (Original) A needle hub as recited in claim 21, wherein the interior cavity has a substantially annular configuration.

23. (Original) A needle hub as recited in claim 21, further comprising a barrel having a distal end and a hub skirt, wherein the hub skirt is mounted to the distal end of the barrel.

24. (Original) A needle hub as recited in claim 23, further comprising a needle support, wherein the interior cavity is defined between the hub skirt and the needle support.

25. (Original) A needle hub as recited in claim 24, wherein the needle support defines a needle cavity having at least a portion of a needle cannula disposed therein.

26. (Original) A needle hub as recited in claim 25, wherein the interior cavity and the needle cavity are coaxial.